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EXAMINER NWAKAMMA, CHIBUTKE K				
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**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

### Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/542,431

**Applicant(s)**

YAMAUCHI, YASU HARU

**Examiner**

CHIBUIKE K. NWAKAMMA

**Art Unit**

2627

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 January 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SE/US)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sako et al (JP 2000-011535: [wherein US 2004/0081044 A1 is relied upon as a US translation thereof]).

Regarding claim 1, Sako discloses a recording method for recording data in a recording media by a recording device (Figs. 16-23), said recording method comprising:

reading identifying information which identifies the recording media from the recording media (Figs. 19 and 22; [0102], [0095], [0089], and [0032]...fourth identification information for identification of the information recording medium recorded on the information recording medium is reproduced);

recording the data on the recording media only when the read identifying information is the same as stored identifying information which was stored in the recording device prior to the reading step being carried out (Fig. 19; Fig. 21, element 12; [0096]).

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Regarding claim 9, A recording device for recording data in a recording media (Fig.18); said recording device comprising:

reading means for reading from the recording media identifying information which identifies the recording media (Figs. 18 and 21, element 14; Fig. 17, element 162 and [0102]);

storing means for storing the identifying information (Fig. 21, element 18; Fig. 18, element 12 and [0103]...CPU 11 stores the recording disk ID into the EEPROM; [0096]...apparatus stored in the ROM) and

discriminating means (Figs. 18 and 21, element 11) for discriminating whether the identifying information read by the reading means (Fig. 17, element 162) is the same as stored identifying information which was stored in the storing means ([0096]), wherein when the discriminating means [CPU 11] discriminates that the identifying information read by the reading means is the same as the stored identifying information which was stored in the storing means, the data is recorded in the recording media (Fig. 19, elements S84, S83), and wherein when the discriminating means [CPU 11] discriminates that the identifying information read by the reading means (Fig. 17, element 162) is different from the stored identifying information which was stored in the storing means [ROM 12], the data is not recorded in the recording media ([0097]).

3. Claims 3, 5, 11, and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Murata (JP 2001-093156: [wherein US 7035172 B1 is relied upon as a US translation thereof]).

Regarding claim 3, Murata teaches a recording method (Figs. 1 and 19) for recording data in a recording media by a recording device (Fig. 4), said recording method comprising:

discriminating whether identifying information which identifies the recording media is recorded on the recording media (Fig. 1, elements S20, S23 and S26);

preparing the identifying information which identifies the recording media when the discriminating step discriminates that the identifying information is not recorded on the recording media (Fig. 1, elements S20, S23 and S26; col. 1, lines 50-60...may detect that disc bears no disc ID...determines that the disc has not been registered, and using an arbitrary code is equated as the preparing step; Further, Fig. 5 and col. 8, lines 55-56 and 62-63 equates as preparing step; col. 9, lines 21-22...which record identification information for identifying the CD-RW disc; col. 14, lines 47-48...effective disc ID that can be used to identify the disc) ;

recording the prepared identifying information and the data on the recording media when the identifying information was not previously stored on the recording media (Fig. 1, elements S23 and S26; col. 9, line 12...disc ID is written; col. 7, lines 34-35 and 38...same data are repetitively recorded) and

storing the prepared identifying information in the recording device (col. 15, lines 7-11 and lines 61-67).

Claim 11 is an apparatus (recording device) claim correspondent to method claim 3. Therefore, claim 11 is analyzed and rejected as previously discussed with respect to claim 3.

Regarding claim 5, Murata discloses the recording method according to claim 3, wherein the identifying information is prepared based on the information peculiar to the recording device (Fig. 4 and col. 1, lines 50-60...may detect that disc bears no disc ID...determines that the disc has not been registered, and using an arbitrary code is equated as the preparing step; Further, Fig. 5 and col. 8, lines 55-56 and 62-63 equates as preparing step; col. 1, lines 60-65...information concerning each CD-RW disc can be managed by the CD-RW recording apparatus equates to information peculiar to the recording device).

Claim 13 is an apparatus (recording device) claim correspondent to method claim 5. Therefore, claim 13 is analyzed and rejected as previously discussed with respect to claim 5.

#### ***Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 2 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sako et al (JP 2000-011535: [wherein US 2004/0081044 A1 is relied upon as a US translation thereof]) in view of Sako et al (US 6134201).

Regarding claim 2, Sako ('044) discloses the recording method according to claim 1. However, does not teach wherein the step of recording the data includes encoding the data by key data formed by using the identifying information, and recording the encoded data in the recording media.

Sako ('201) teaches wherein the step of recording the data includes encoding the data by key data formed by using the identifying information, and recording the encoded data in the recording media (Fig. 1 and col. 7, lines 7-8 and 11-13; col. 2, line 67-col. 3, line 1; col. 3, lines 14-16 and lines 20-26).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Sako ('044) to include the teachings of Sako ('201) where encoding the data by key data is formed by using the identifying information, and recording the encoded data in the recording media. The modification would have been obvious for the benefit of enabling the process hysteresis of the record medium to be detected when the identification information is confirmed and to prevent copying of data from the record medium (Sako '201; col. 3, lines 5-10).

Regarding claim 10, Sako ('044) discloses the recording device according to claim 9. However, does not teach wherein the data is encoded by key data

formed by using the identifying information and the encoded data is recorded in the recording media.

Sako ('201) teaches wherein the step of recording the data includes encoding the data by key data formed by using the identifying information, and recording the encoded data in the recording media (Fig. 1 and col. 7, lines 7-8 and 11-13; col. 2, line 67-col. 3, line 1; col. 3, lines 14-16 and lines 20-26).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Sako ('044) to include the teachings of Sako ('201) where encoding the data by key data is formed by using the identifying information, and recording the encoded data in the recording media. The modification would have been obvious for the benefit of enabling the process hysteresis of the record medium to be detected when the identification information is confirmed and to prevent copying of data from the record medium (Sako '201; col. 3, lines 5-10).

6. Claims 4 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Murata (JP 2001-093156: [wherein US 7035172 B1 is relied upon as a US translation thereof]) in view of Sako et al (US 6134201).

Regarding claim 4, Murata discloses the recording method according to claim 3. However, does not disclose wherein the step recording the data includes encoding the data by key data formed by using the identifying information, and recording the encoded data in the recording media.

Sako discloses wherein the step recording the data includes encoding the data by key data formed by using the identifying information, and recording the encoded data in the recording media (Fig. 1 and col. 7, lines 7-8 and 11-13; col. 2, line 67-col. 3, line 1; col. 3, lines 14-16 and lines 20-26).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Murata with the teachings of Sako where the step recording the data includes encoding the data by key data formed by using the identifying information, and recording the encoded data in the recording media, so, to improve security performance in the transmission of key information after decoding encoded key information (Sako; col. 3, lines 44-48).

Regarding claim 12, Murata discloses the recording device according to claim 11. However, does not disclose wherein the data is encoded by key data formed by using the identifying information and the encoded data is recorded in the recording media.

Sako discloses wherein the data is encoded by key data formed by using the identifying information and the encoded data is recorded in the recording media (Fig. 1 and col. 7, lines 7-8 and 11-13; col. 2, line 67-col. 3, line 1; col. 3, lines 14-16 and lines 20-26).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Murata with the teachings of Sako where the data is encoded by key data formed by using the identifying information and the encoded data is recorded in the recording media, so, to improve security

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performance in the transmission of key information after decoding encoded key information (Sako; col. 3, lines 44-48).

7. Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sako et al (US 6134201) in view of Sako et al (WO 01/15164 wherein Sako et al [US 7 072260 B1] is relied upon as a U.S translation thereof).

Regarding claim 19, Sako ('201) discloses a recording media in which encoded data is recorded (Fig. 1) and in which identifying information which identifies the recording media that is stored in a device used for recording the data is recorded (Fig. 8, element 418; col. 11, lines 4-7 and lines 57-60 and col. 12, lines 22-24 and lines 58-60) wherein the encoded data is encoded based on the identifying information (col. 11, lines 9-12, 41-43, and 57-60; col. 12, lines 48-49) . However, does not teach encoded data includes first encoded data corresponding to a first musical piece and second encoded data corresponding to a second musical piece, the first encoded data being different than the second encoded data.

Sako ('260) discloses wherein encoded data is encoded based on the identifying information (col. 17, lines 30-33...encoding or encrypting key data...equivalent to the encrypted work data...included in the individual ID data) and includes first encoded data corresponding to a first musical piece and second encoded data corresponding to a second musical piece, the first encoded data being different than the second encoded data (Fig. 8 and col. 13, line 57-col. 14, line 26. It is clear that first digital data corresponds to first work data and

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second digital data corresponds to second work data; and where work data corresponds to the encrypted work data disclosed in col. 17, lines 30-33).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Sako ('201) to include the teachings of Sako ('260) where encoded data is encoded based on the identifying information and includes first encoded data corresponding to a first musical piece and second encoded data corresponding to a second musical piece, the first encoded data being different than the second encoded data. The modification would have been obvious for the benefit of forming pit pattern based on a CD recording format and displace recording pits constituting pit pattern based on the first digital data into a direction of track width orthogonal to the extending direction of the recording track (Sako '260; col. 14, lines 2-3 and 16-19); and further to use the individual ID data and the universal resource locator as the address of a distributed source for the work data (Sako '260; col. 14, lines 26-30).

8. Claims 6-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sako et al (US 6134201) in view of Sako et al (WO 01/15164: wherein [US 7072260 B1] is relied upon as a U.S translation thereof) and further in view of Sako et al (JP 2000-011535: [wherein US 2004/0081044 A1 is relied upon as a US translation thereof]). SPEs notes: This rejection include Sako 201 and Sako 260, so see my comment above to those related issues in question above.

Regarding claim 6, Sako ('201) teaches a recording method for recording data on a recording media by a recording device (Figs. 1 and 4), said recording method comprising:

preparing the identifying information (col. 9, lines 31-37), recording the prepared identifying information and the data on the recording media (Fig. 4; col. 11, lines 4-7 and 60); reading the identifying information from the recording media (Fig. 10, elements S507-S508; col. 9, lines 10-11 and 19-20), storing the identifying information in the recording device (Fig. 8, element 418). However, does not teach discriminating whether identifying information which identifies a recording media is recorded on the recording media; when the discriminating step discriminates that the identifying information is not recorded on the recording media, when the discriminating step discriminates that the identifying information is recorded on the recording media; and recording the data in the recording media when the identifying information read from the recording media is the same as the identifying information which was stored in the recording device prior to the reading step being carried out, and not recording the data in the recording media when the identifying information read from the recording media is different than the identifying information which was stored in the recording device prior to the reading step being carried out.

Sako ('260) teaches discriminating whether identifying information which identifies a recording media is recorded on the recording media (col. 12, lines 9-29 and col. 11, lines 62-64); when the discriminating step discriminates that the identifying information is not recorded on the recording media (col. 12, lines 9-29;

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col. 11, lines 62-64 and lines 45-48), when the discriminating step discriminates that the identifying information is recorded on the recording media (col. 9, lines 32-34 and lines 44-48; col. 10, lines 16-19), storing the discriminated identifying information in the recording device (Fig. 12, elements S126, S145; and col. 16, lines 45-49).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Sako('201) to include the teachings of Sako ('260) where identifying information which identifies a recording media is recorded on the recording media; when the discriminating step discriminates that the identifying information is not recorded on the recording media, and when the discriminating step discriminates that the identifying information is recorded on the recording media, so, to select a reproducing system of a reproducing device in accordance with the presence/absence of individual ID data (Sako '260; col. 12, lines 2-4).

Sako ('201) in view of Sako ('260) does not disclose recording the data in the recording media when the identifying information read from the recording media is the same as the identifying information which was stored in the recording device prior to the reading step being carried out, and not recording the data in the recording media when the identifying information read from the recording media is different than the identifying information which was stored in the recording device prior to the reading step being carried out.

Sako ('044) discloses recording the data in the recording media when the identifying information read from the recording media is the same as the

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identifying information which was stored in the recording device prior to the reading step being carried out (Fig. 19, elements S84, S83 and [0102], [0095-0096]), and not recording the data in the recording media when the identifying information read from the recording media is different than the identifying information which was stored in the recording device prior to the reading step being carried out ([0097]).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Sako ('201) in view of Sako ('260) to include the teachings of Sako ('044) where recording the data in the recording media when the identifying information read from the recording media is the same as the identifying information which was stored in the recording device prior to the reading step being carried out, and not recording the data in the recording media when the identifying information read from the recording media is different than the identifying information which was stored in the recording device prior to the reading step being carried out. The modification would have been obvious for the benefit of knowing when to stop data recording and begin recording of new data when data does not match and to process data that matches.

Regarding claim 7, Sako ('201) further discloses wherein the step recording the data includes encoding the data by key data formed by using the identifying information, and recording the encoded data in the recording media (Fig. 1 and col. 7, lines 7-8 and 11-13; col. 2, line 67-col. 3, line 1; col. 3, lines 14-16 and lines 20-26).

Regarding claim 8, Sako ('201) discloses the recording method according to claim 3, wherein the identifying information is prepared based on the information peculiar to the recording device (Figs. 8-10 and col. 9, lines 31-39).

9. Claims 14-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sako et al (JP 2000-011535: [wherein US 2004/0081044 A1 is relied upon as a US translation thereof]) in view of Sako et al (WO 01/15164 wherein Sako et al [US 7072260 B1] is relied upon as a U.S translation thereof) and further in view of Sako et al (US 6134201).

Regarding claim 14, Sako ('044) discloses a recording device for recording data in a recording media (Figs. 16, 18-19), said recording device comprising:

Sako ('044) teaches reading means for reading from the recording media identifying information which identifies the recording media (Fig. 17, element 162 and [0102]);

storing means for storing the identifying information (Fig. 21, element 18; [0103]...stores the recording disk ID into the EEPROM; [0096]...apparatus ID stored in ROM). However, does not disclose preparing means for preparing the identifying information; and wherein when the reading means discriminates that the identifying information is not recorded on the recording media, the preparing means prepares the identifying information, the prepared identifying information and the data are recorded in the recording media, and the prepared identifying information is stored in the storing means, and when the reading means

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discriminates that the identifying information is recorded in the recording media, the data is recorded on the recording media.

Sako ('260) teaches wherein reading means (Figs. 3 and 13) discriminates that the identifying information is not recorded on the recording media (col. 11, lines 62-66...if the individual ID data is absent, that is, if the individual ID data is not recorded on the loaded disc-shaped recording medium), when the reading means (Figs. 3 and 13) discriminates that the identifying information is recorded in the recording media, the data is recorded on the recording media (col. 10, lines 16-19...discrimination at step S43 may be only the discrimination as to whether the individual ID data is actually written or not; col. 7, lines 29-34...individual ID data for identifying individual disk shaped recording media; col. 13, line 18...individual ID data is recorded; col. 6, lines 36-38...ID data...is recorded; col. 9, lines 32-34, 44-48, and 52-53).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Sako ('044) to include the teachings of Sako ('260) where reading means discriminates that the identifying information is not recorded on the recording media and when the reading means discriminates that the identifying information is recorded in the recording media, the data is recorded on the recording media, so, to manage duplication of work data recorded on the data recording medium and select a reproducing system of a reproducing device in accordance with presence/absence of individual ID data (Sako '260; col. 1, lines 14-15 and col. 12, lines 2-4).

Sako ('044) in view of Sako ('260) does not teach preparing means for preparing the identifying information, the preparing means prepares the identifying information, the prepared identifying information and the data are recorded in the recording media, and the prepared identifying information is stored in the storing means.

Sako ('201) teaches preparing means (Fig. 8, element 419) for preparing the identifying information (col. 9, lines 31-38), the preparing means (Fig. 8, element 419) prepares the identifying information (col. 9, lines 31-38), the prepared identifying information and the data are recorded in the recording media (Fig. 4; col. 11, lines 4-7 and lines 57-60), and the prepared identifying information is stored in the storing means (Fig. 8, elements 418, 411, and 420; col. 9, lines 31-38 and col. 11, lines 4-7).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Sako ('044) in view of Sako ('260) to include the teachings of Sako ('201) where preparing means prepares the identifying information; and wherein when the reading means discriminates that the identifying information is not recorded on the recording media, the preparing means prepares the identifying information, the prepared identifying information and the data are recorded in the recording media, and the prepared identifying information is stored in the storing means. The modification of preparing identifying information would have been obvious for the benefit of improving on the safety and reliability of illegal copy prevention or the like; and further to obstruct/prevent unauthorized duplication of data recorded on the

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loaded disc shaped recording medium and supply information to various disk areas and encoding and decoding key information when necessary.

Regarding claim 15, Sako ('201) further discloses wherein the data is encoded by key data formed by using the identifying information and the encoded data is recorded in the recording media (Fig. 1 and col. 7, lines 7-8 and 11-13; col. 2, line 67-col. 3, line 1; col. 3, lines 14-16 and lines 20-26).

Regarding claim 16, Sako ('201) discloses the recording device according to claim 11, wherein the preparing means prepares the identifying information based on the information peculiar to the recording device (Fig. 8, element 419 and col. 9, lines 31-39).

10. Claims 17-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sako et al (WO 01/15164: [wherein US 7 072260 B1 is relied upon as a U.S translation thereof]) in view of Sako et al (US 6134201).

Regarding claim 17, Sako ('260) discloses a reproducing method (Figs. 3 and 13), comprising:

discriminating whether identifying information which identifies the recording media is recorded on a recording media (col. 11, lines 45-48 and col. 12, lines 9-29); and when the discriminating step discriminates that the identifying information is recorded on the recording media (col. 9, lines 32-34, 44-48 and col. 11, lines 45-48), reading, from the recording media (Fig. 3), performing a

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reproduction using the reproducing data (Fig. 9, element S32, Fig. 12, element S131 and col. 9, lines 14-31). However, does not teach the identifying information and data encoded based on the identifying information, decoding the read data to produce reproducing data based on the read identifying information.

Sako ('201) teaches the identifying information and data encoded based on the identifying information (Fig. 1), decoding the read data to produce reproducing data based on the read (Fig. 2).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Sako ('260) to include the teachings of Sako ('201) where identifying information and data are encoded based on the identifying information, decoding the read data to produce reproducing data based on the read identifying information, so, to improve security and prevent recorded data from being interrupted (Sako '201; col. 5, lines 41 and 29-30).

Claim 18 is an apparatus claim correspondent to method claim 17. Therefore, claim 18 is analyzed and rejected as previously discussed with respect to claim 17.

### ***Response to Arguments***

11. Applicant's arguments filed 02 Jan. 2009 with respect to claims 1-19 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

***Conclusion***

12. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Sako et al (JP 2000-011535).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CHIBUIKE K. NWAKAMMA whose telephone number is (571)270-3458. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thur .

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hoa Nguyen can be reached on 5712727579. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/C. K. N./  
Examiner, Art Unit 2627  
21 Jan. 2009

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/HOA T NGUYEN/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2627